

Favorites for Pennants in Major Leagues Going Bad and Not Performing Up to Advance Dope

NEW YORK CLUBS NOT SO STRONGLY FAVORED NOW FOR 1922 LAURELS

Crack Infield of the Giants Is All Shot, While Yanks' Great Outfield Is Handicapped as Opening Day of Season Approaches

By ROBERT W. MAXWELL
Sports Editor Evening Public Ledger

THE opening day of the major league baseball season approaches New York fans are getting nervous over prospects of the Giants and the Yankees. A week ago it looked as if both clubs would finish first in their leagues, but now it is feared they will finish in April. In other words, the favorites are all shot to pieces and are not performing up to the advance dope. It is entirely too early to hand out the tough luck stuff, but baseball is such an uncertain game that one never can tell what will happen. The Giants are depending upon their million-dollar infield. No doubt it is one of the greatest aggregations ever put together and will keep the club up in the running. However, in order to do that every man must be in the line-up every day and keep on delivering the goods. Injuries in the line-up of step, and it's a good thing the stars are disabled now instead of next month.

Heinie Groh has a split finger. Frisch has an abscess on his toe and Bancroft is out of the line-up because of serious illness of his wife. George Kelly is the only regular in the infield, with Young and Cunningham, two outfielders, filling in. In the exhibition games this is not a serious matter, but after the regular season starts the Giants will have to present their strongest line-up every day. These men will be back next Wednesday, according to McGraw.

The Yanks have not rounded into shape as rapidly as was expected and there is a glaring weakness in the outfield. Elmer Miller is a regular and Huggins planned to use Fowler and Miller in the other spots. However, neither of them have not come through, and the Yankee manager will have to try a few more candidates. Ruth and Meusel will be out for six weeks, and in that time the American League champions will have a tough time. Huggins tried hard to land an experienced outfielder from some other American League club, but was turned down. He couldn't pick one up in the minors, so the only thing left to be done is to convert a pitcher, catcher and possibly an infielder into outfielders. There are O'Doul, Wally Schang and Frank Baker. O'Doul is a good fly-chaser and hits well, and Schang played left field with the Athletics. Baker never has been out of the infield, but he may do well in the suburbs. The former home-run king appears to be sliding out of the picture. He isn't as active as he once was and Huggins is about ready to take him out of the line-up. Hard hit ball is troubling him on either side and he cannot swing and hit as well as he once did. He is a merchant even in his palmetto cap, but now this weakness is more apparent. Seems strange that a club like the Yankees, with the big bankroll behind it, should be up against it for players. It is a confession of weakness to be forced to use catchers, pitchers and infielders to do reserve duty in the outfield.

NO WONDER the Gotham fans are worried. The brilliant future is all wiped up and the present is causing much fear and trembling.

Young's Wing Loses Its "Pep"

RALPH YOUNG, a veteran of Philadelphia and the original "Pop" in baseball, apparently has failed to make good with Detroit this year. He is not too keen to play anymore, his eye is just as keen and his legs just as strong, but his throwing has fallen off considerably. When we were in August two weeks ago Young was playing a good game and Manager Ty Cobb said he would be the regular second baseman.

Waivers now have been asked on him, which means he is slated to step out of the scenario. George Cutschewitz will take his place, but George no longer is a spring chicken and might not be able to hold the daily grind. Therefore, the Tigers are not so formidable as a couple of weeks ago. Young is thirty-one years old and has been playing since 1900. He broke in with Spring City that year and then went to Scranton. Pep once was a member of the Phillies and was in good standing during the winter when no salaries were paid. He was drafted in the fall of 1910 and released the day before the season opened. He went to Detroit in 1914, supplanting Germany Schaefer at second base. He held down that position ever since. Last year his arm went bad. Young didn't know what it was, but the results were disastrous. He couldn't throw straight and his wild heaves lost many games. Ty Cobb now is up against it. He has a new shortstop and will have to develop a new second baseman.

PERHAPS he now will be forced to archaize one of his heavy-hitting outfielders for Jimmy Mitchell, of the Yankees. Stranger things than that have happened.

Trading With AA Clubs Not So Brisk

LAST winter some of the magnates suggested that the three AA leagues, meaning the International, Coast and American Association, be boosted because of their failure to accept the draft. Later this was strenuously denied, but after looking over the new talent in the major league training camps down South we are inclined to believe the draft-drafters are receiving what is commonly known as the shant treatment.

Few AA players were tried out this year. Of course, there were several who were sent out on option, like Sam Post, Brooklyne, McMillan of the Yankees, and Mattor, of Pittsburgh, but few were purchased outright. The Cubs kicked in heavily to get State and Albert, but Owner Wrigley just transferred the money from one pocket to another. McGraw paid a big sum for Shiner, of Indianapolis, and the St. Louis Browns gave eleven players for Danforth, Branch Rickey purchased Del Gainer from Milwaukee, but Del has seen his best days and will be used for utility purposes. Although the majors will not admit it, trading with the AA leagues is not as brisk as it once was. The Cavenny and Pinnell deal with Cincinnati, the \$75,000 purchase of O'Connell and the \$40,000 sale to have been paid by Detroit for Pitchers Johnson and Pilette may have caused the magnates to duck for cover, but even when such conditions prevail the chances are that draft prices will be paid whether the leagues agree to come in or not.

More Players Are Being Lifted From the Buses These Days, and as there is a shortage of big-league talent, the youngsters in Oklahoma, Ia., has just as much chance to break into the big show as a star in the International or Coast Leagues or the American Association.

Rough Will Be in Line on Opening Day

ACCORDING to latest reports, Eddie Roush, of Cincinnati, has modified his demands and will play one year for the Reds provided he receives \$18,000. At first he insisted on a three-year contract, and his latest offer shows he is willing to accept \$15,000 a year.

It is our guess that Eddie will be in the line-up on opening day, whether his terms are accepted or not. He will not throw away \$15,000 to gain \$3000, nor so you could notice it. He remembers what happened to Heinie Groh last year when the third baseman was found a month's salary for late reporting, and that did not sound so good. Ball players do not enjoy the spring training trip. They imagine it is all bogus and they can get into condition on the old farm or driving a truck. If they can sidestep the early grind they consider it a moral victory. Roush did not make the training trip. He detested all of the exhibition games and the barn-storming trip. He knows the opening day is getting closer and his demands are not so strong. Eddie will sign within the next week. That is our guess.

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SCHOOL TOURNEY STARTS

National Basketball Play Begins on Chicago Court

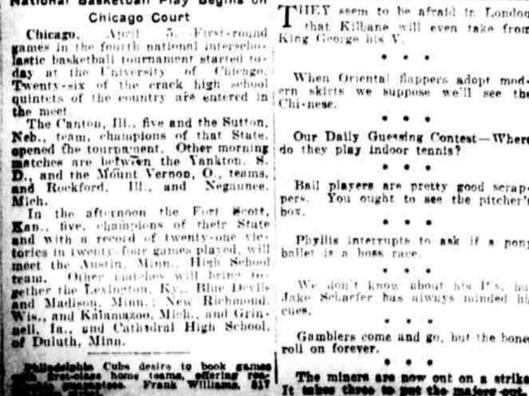
Chicago, April 5.—First-round games in the fourth national interscholastic basketball tournament started today at the University of Chicago. Twenty-six of the crack high school quartets of the country are entered in the meet.

The Canton, Ill., five and the Sutton, Neb., team, champions of that State, opened the tournament. On the morning matches are between the Yankton, S. D., and the Mount Vernon, O., teams, and Rockford, Ill., and Neogaue, Mich.

In the afternoon the Fort Scott, Kan., five, champions of their State and with a record of twenty-one victories in twenty-four games played, will meet the Austin, Minn. High School team. The Lexington, Ky., Blue Devils and Madison, Minn., New Richmond, Wis., and Kalamazoo, Mich., and Grinnell, Ia., and Cathedral High School, of Duluth, Minn.

Duluth Cubs desire to book game before home team, entering next week.

The miners are now out on a strike. It takes three to put the major out.



UNCLE DUDLEY



CLIVEDEN HURLER IS PITCHING AGE

Whitney's Classy Work Wins for Germantown Against Catholic High in Opener

The Cliveden humbered Catholics on the Penedero grounds 7 to 2, while West Philly defeated Southern 15 to 6 in each instance it was a case of one big inning turning the trick. West Philly sent six of its eight runs across the plate in the sixth session, while Germantown registered five of its seven tallies in the second.

W. PHILA. BEATS SOUTHERN

Scholastic Baseball

TODAY'S GAMES

Central High vs. Germantown High at Penn Charter.

INTER-SCHOLASTIC LEAGUE

| | |
|-------------|---------|
| W. P. H. 7 | S. H. 6 |
| W. P. H. 10 | S. H. 6 |
| W. P. H. 10 | S. H. 6 |
| W. P. H. 10 | S. H. 6 |

WESTPHILADELPHIA HIGH and Germantown High ushered in the interscholastic league baseball season yesterday afternoon in an auspicious manner by beating Southern High and Catholic High respectively.

AUSTRALIA CHAMP TIPS 210 POUNDS

Jim Tracey Started as Lightweight Nine Years Ago. Began in Ring at 15. WAS BORN IN SOUTH AFRICA

ALBERT LLOYD, a 24-year-old, 5-foot-11-inch, 210-pound, 145-inch chest, 45-inch forearm, 14-inch wrist, 14-inch thigh, 14-inch neck, 12-inch ankle, 9-inch hand, and 12-inch foot, is the champion of Australia.

BOWLERS RECEIVE PRIZES

More Than One Hundred Awards Made at Financial League Banquet

The Philadelphia Financial League closed the 1922 season last night with a banquet at Knickerbocker's. Fifteenth place in the bowling contest, which over two hundred persons attended.

CHAMP PASSES UP GREB

Wilson Absolutely Refuses to Meet Pittsburgh Boxer

New York, April 5.—Johnny Wilson, the middleweight champion, declines to mingle with Harry Greb. Johnny will talk to Harry, write him letters, speak highly of him, but as for fighting him—nothing doing.

P. T. NINE ALSO PERKASIE TEAM

Railroaders Will Play Baseball This Year in Montgomery County League

HAVE FOUR STAR HURLERS

IN LOOKING over the more than seventy teams in the Philadelphia Baseball Association, none stands out more prominently than the P. T. Nine, which will represent Philadelphia in the Montgomery County League.

RAILROADERS WILL PLAY BASEBALL

THE railroaders plan to keep on the opening of the season on April 29, and aside from representing the P. T. Nine, the railroaders will also field a team in the Perkaskie team, of the Montgomery County League. Since this announcement was made the clubs in the Pike County League have been busy strengthening their line-ups to combat such a strong aggregation, especially since Perkaskie is a new team this year.

BOOTS AND SADDLE

Slippery Elm is well liked by the Southern Maryland Handicap, at the Olympia Monday night. It was reported that Hammer hurt his hand, could not meet the former schoolboy and Joe Reno, of Trenton, was substituted.

SCRAPS ABOUT SCRAPPERS

Johnny Buff, champion, will meet Hasting Leonard in the wrap-up of an all-star event here the latter part of the month. Other contenders are on the card are Joe Lynch, Jack Sharkey, Joe O'Donnell, Fighting Mack, Jimmy Jones and Frankie Jerome.

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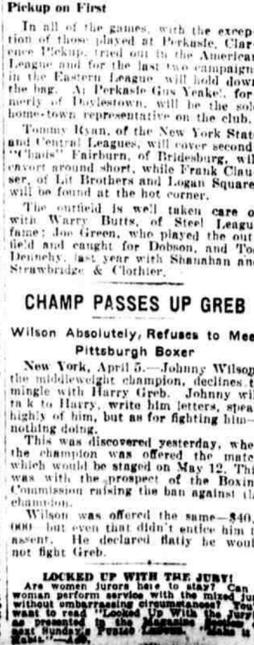
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How Does It Strike You?

Harmony Among Phils Penn Tradition May Fall A Lesson to Boxers

HARMONY and aggressive fighting spirit will not make a champion out of a tall-end ball club, but internal trouble easily can drop a championship team to the cellar.

For the last few seasons the Phillies have been spiritless, due, in a large measure, to the presence of some disgruntled players in the line-up. This season it looks as if all is well within the ranks.

Consider the Phils man for man and they don't appear to be perpetual losers. The outfielders, Williams, King, Lebourveau and Walker, are all rugged, two-fisted hitters, who can hold up their chins when compared with any in the League.

Joe Rupp, at third base, is a sure and spectacular fielder and a fair hitter. Art Fletcher is thirty-five years old, but if his legs are getting weary or his eyes dim, he hasn't shown it in the short field or at bat. Frank Parkinson and Roy Leslie, who form the right side of the infield, are experiments, but they warrant the test.

No one can snicker at a pitching staff which embraces Lee Meadows, Jimmy Ring and Wilbur Hubbell, and the catchers, Henline, Peters and Witherow, well, if they're not good, they're not bad, either.

But the fact, more significant than class, is that there is perfect harmony among the players and between the athletes and Manager Wilhelm. And any ball club captained by Arthur Fletcher must be aggressive. It used to be the Phils; recently it has been the fluttern' Phils; this year they may not fly and they may not flutter, but they will FIGHT.

WILLIE HOPPE has retired from billiards because his manager, R. B. Benjamin, objects to an agreement which Benjamin himself forced on the contestants in the title tourney. That sounds like poor sportsmanship to say the least.

Penn and Non-Graduate Football Coaches

IF THE rumors, circulating through from the inner corner of football officials at the University of Pennsylvania are true, a radical departure from time-honored methods in coaching will be in effect next fall.

The latest story has Tom Davies, the brilliant Pittsburgh halfback, as the backfield coach and Jack Coffey, of Illinois, as the tutor of the line. Mohardt, the Notre Dame star and now outfielder with Detroit, also has been prominently mentioned as an assistant.

Never in the history of the gridiron sport at the University has there been other than a graduate of Penn coaching its teams.

Years ago there was considerable agitation when the names of outsiders were mentioned for coaching berths, with the result that the sponsor of the outsiders withdrew their names.

The attitude of the Penn graduates at this time is a passive one, although a meeting held behind closed doors last week protested vigorously against admitting non-graduate coaches.

This is to be Heisman's last year and apparently he is being given free rein to choose the staff he feels will bring the best results. Whatever the coaching staff, it is hoped that the Red and Blue will lift itself out of the football mire next fall.

BEN EGAN, once a Mackman and for several seasons first string catcher on the Baltimore Orioles, has been given his unconditional release. He was immediately signed up by Jersey City as manager, which is a boost for the Skeepers. Egan is baseball wise.

"Set-up" Upsets the Dope

HARRY KID BROWN was supposed to box Ever Hammer, of Chicago, at the Olympia Monday night. It was reported that Hammer hurt his hand, could not meet the former schoolboy and Joe Reno, of Trenton, was substituted.

When Reno's name was announced as Brown's opponent, a cry of "Set-up" rent the Olympia's air. It was a matter of opinion, but one thing certain was that Reno proved himself far from being a "set-up." As it was, Joe upset the dope by winning from Harry.

Reno's surprising victory should be a lesson to boxers. If he hadn't been in shape he probably would have been beaten to a frazzle.

RABBIT MARANVILLE has come out with an opinion that the R. B. Burns are going to miss George Burns. Nothing more truthful could be said. Furthermore, Burns will be missed by the fans. George was one of the best, on the field and off, that ever appeared in a baseball uniform.

The Maryland Jockey Club yesterday announced dates for the racing of its leading stakes for the meeting which will open at the Pimlico track on May 1.

The dates follow:

Wednesday, May 3—Pimlico Turf, two-year-olds and upward, one and one-sixteenth mile.

Thursday, May 4—Spring Handicap, three-year-olds and upward, one and one-sixteenth mile.

Friday, May 5—Spring Juvenile, two-year-olds, four and one-half furlongs.

Saturday, May 6—Pimlico Oaks, three-year-old fillies, one and one-sixteenth mile.

Sunday, May 7—Green Springs Vase, three-year-old fillies, four-year-olds and upward two miles.

Monday, May 8—The President, three-year-olds, 400,000 added, one and one-half miles.

At Diamond, a New York bantam will make his debut in the amateur ring on Tuesday night. He will be pitted against Fighting Murray, of Philadelphia, who has been the champion of the Pennsylvania State.

Johnny Vlast, of South Philadelphia, is not on the trail of the middleweight champion, Virgil Saia, he does not have any words, and wants to take a crack at Tommy Louhran more than any one else.

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FIRPO STOPS MCCANN

South American Looks Like Winning Heavyweight

Newark, N. J., April 5.—Luis Firpo, an Argentine pugilist, was today considered by experts as a dark horse in the rough because of his defeat of Joe McCann here last night. Firpo entered the fight with little or no defense against McCann's hard punches, but the way he absorbed punishment and came back like a regular lion was impressive.

McCann was beaten down in the closing seconds of the fifth round, and the officials stopped the bout. The decision was well received by the crowd, for it appeared the South American champion might seriously injure the Jersey man if the encounter continued.

REJOICE IN FIRPO'S VICTORY

Buenos Aires, April 5.—News of the victory of Luis Firpo, Argentine pugilist, over Joe McCann in their bout last night at Newark, N. J., reached here shortly after midnight. Enthusiastic crowds, which had anxiously awaited the result since 10 o'clock, greeted the news with manifestations of great joy. A procession of delight was formed, joined by older enthusiasts in caps and parades, the streets singing the national anthem and songs in honor of Firpo, who was cheered loudly as the world's champion.

Frisch May Miss Opening Game

Knoxville, Tenn., April 5.—Frank Frisch, the Philadelphia star, will possibly miss the opening game of the Philadelphia Phillies because of a sprained ankle sustained during a game for at least two weeks.



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